Officers was issued on 3.12.1997. Subsequently, orders were issued in September, 1998 and August, 1999 to upgrade 'temporarily' a specified number of posts (915 in two batches) of Desk Officers/ Section Officers to the level of Under Secretaries for giving upgradations on a personal*/in-situ* basis to the eligible officers (having minimum prescribed 8 years service as Section Officer) as one-time measure. The direct recruits who are always appointed against substantive vacancies are assigned *inter-se* seniority with the promotees appointed against their quota of substantive vacancies prior to which they (promotees) might have rendered a number of years of service against temporary vacancies. This period of temporary service does not qualify for seniority.

The validity of the aforesaid CSL was challenged before the CAT in the matter of Amrit Lal & Ors. The CAT by its order dated 26.10.99 dismissed the case. The applicant filed a SLP No. 1795/2000 before, the Hon'ble Supreme Court. By its order 11.2.2000, the Hon'ble Supreme Court ordered that the SLP be treated as interlocutory application seeking clarification of its order dated 9.5.97 cited above. Accordingly, the CSL became *sub-judice.*

(e) Does not arise.

Officers imprisoned for contempt of court

2138. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Government, Semi Government (Central), PUC officers who have been sent to jail for contempt of court during last year; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Information relating to officers who have been sent to jail for contempt of court is not centrally maintained. It is for the concerned disciplinary authorities to take appropriate departmental action against the

officers for any acts of contempt of court in accordance with the rules in the light of the court order and in the conspectus of facts and circumstances of each case.

Officers for Training to Foreign Institutions

2139. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India nominates officers for training to Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, administrative and technical capability in various fields at Government's cost;

(b) if so, the number of officers sent abroad for both short term and long term training courses during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) number of officers belonging to the SC/ST categories among such officers sent abroad for training; and

(d) if adequate number of SCs/STs officers have not been nominated for the said training, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Foreign Training Programmes to which officers of the Indian Administrative Service, State Civil Services, the Central Secretariat Service and those officers of other All India Services and Group 'A' Central Services working under the Central Staffing Scheme are nominated/deputed by the Department of Personnel and Training, fall under the Technical Co-operation Programmes, such as, the Colombo Plan (relating to Programmes in U.K. and Japan) and India-Australia Training and Capacity Building Project (relating to training in Australia). Under these programmes the training costs are not required to be borne by the Goyernment of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the position as stated in reply to para (a) of the question.